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BRINGING LAST SEASON'S CLOTHES UP TO DATE:

A radio talk prepared by Miss Marjorie Eastman, Clothing Specialist, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Idaho, and delivered by Miss Jean Stewart during the Western Farm and Home Hour Wednesday, September 7, 1932, through Station KGO and nine other stations associated with the NBC-KGO network, Pacific Division, National Broadcasting Company.

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Bringing last season's clothes up to date is a popular practice nowadays for we are all interested in making the most of whatever clothing we have on hand. But successful remodeling is not easy. As a rule, we have to spend considerable time, thought and energy if we are to make good looking clothes from last year's wardrobe.

The aim in making over is to produce a garment that does not look made over. Study each article carefully and consider all of its possibilities before starting work. The condition of the material is an important factor. It is false economy to spend your time on a garment that does not have enough wear left in it to repay you for your effort. The style of the garment and its relation to present-day style will also help you to decide what kind and how much remodeling is worthwhile.

Each article is, of course, an individual problem. But you will find many present-day styles that are well adapted for use in remodeling. The choice of the right style will do more than anything else to help you get a finished result that looks as though it were intended to be that way, not as though it had to be. Look through your pattern books for designs suited to the size and shape of the pieces you have to work with. For example, if you have to combine two different kinds of material, choose a design that is planned for two different fabrics. If your pieces are small, select a style that is cut up in many parts or one that will hide piecing. For example, a gored skirt may be cut from pieces that would be inadequate for flares or pleats. Yoke designs offer possibilities for piecings. Sometimes piecings can be hidden under belts, tucks, lines of stitching, or rows of buttons.

If the article you are making over dates back several seasons, it is likely to be too straight, low-waisted or short. A dress or coat may be made more fitted by curving in the side seams at the waist line, fitting fullness out of the back of the waist by darts or tucks, or by raising the belt nearer the normal waist line.

Adding length is often a difficult problem if there is no hem allowance to let out. If extra material is available, it may be possible to lengthen a short flare skirt by setting in a yoke. Sometimes a wide belt or jacket will yield pieces large enough for this purpose. If the waist of the dress is worn, it may be possible to cut a yoke from the waist, making a skirt to be worn with separate blouses.

A dress worn or pulled out around the armholes is a common problem. A design which has the top yoke and sleeve of contrasting material often fits in here, for the new yoke replaces the parts which are worn. The worn parts can also be discarded by making a jumper dress or a skirt and a sleeveless bolero

jacket to be worn with separate blouses. Or the sleeves may be ripped out of the dress and the armholes carefully faced or bound. In one case such a dress was completed by using the large cape collar from which to cut flared caps as substitutes for sleeves.

The remodeling of a wool suit is likely to be worth our while for wool stands a great deal of wear and, because of its elasticity, can be freshened more satisfactorily than some other fabrics. Possibly the jacket may be shortened or made more fitting at the waist line. A change to a bolero jacket is another possibility. A two-piece skirt may be wide enough to cut a gored skirt for a slender person. Suits are sometimes made over into very attractive tailored dresses.

No matter what the problem, your first step is to select a design that will not give you away. Having chosen your pattern, you are ready to start making the garment. If you are wise, you will take extra care in its construction. Careless work arising from the indifferent attitude that "it's only a made-over" is bound to result in a finished garment that is only a made-over. Good workmanship is essential if you are to achieve a trim, ready-made look. First of all the material should be in the best possible condition before you begin work. It should be ripped or cut apart, cleaned and pressed. If worn places must be used, darn and press them carefully. Make piecings along a straight thread of the material. Press each seam and finish as soon as it is completed and press the entire garment when it is finished. It may pay you to send a coat or a suit to a tailor for the final pressing.

There are few made-overs that could not be made more attractive by a little extra expenditure of time and thought. Remodeling problems, like many others, can best be solved by right planning and careful work.

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